

May 1, 2002

## **Public Notice for 401 Certification**

### **Robinson Creek Bridge Replacement Project Robinson Creek Road, Ukiah Mendocino County**

On March 20, 2002 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Jeff Bray of LSA Associates, Inc., on behalf of the County of Mendocino Department of Transportation, requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the state and other water quality impacts associated with the replacement of the existing Robinson Creek Road Bridge over Robinson Creek in Mendocino County, California.

The project will impact approximately 0.01 acre wetlands and 0.003 acre of Robinson Creek, which drains into the Russian River. The purpose of the project is the replacement of the existing Robinson Creek Road Bridge. The project will also remove (from the creek channel) three concrete piers from the original Robinson Creek Road Bridge that was washed out during the flood of 1964.

Construction of the project has the potential to affect three anadromous fish species: Central California Coast steelhead, Central California Coast coho salmon, and California Coast chinook salmon. In addition, the project has the potential to affect critical spawning and natal rearing habitat for all of the species listed above during the removal of riparian vegetation.

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project to reduce or eliminate potential impacts:

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated to control erosion on the disturbed slopes.
- A Biological Assessment will be prepared to assess project impacts on the above referenced species and their associated critical riparian habitat.
- All staging and maintenance of equipment will occur outside of the river channel.
- All graded areas will be replanted, utilizing native species that are well adapted to specific site conditions, thus increasing the chance of survival.
- Prior to construction, fencing will be installed to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas and to prevent soil from discharging into Robinson Creek.
- By design, the bridge is single span to eliminate the need for piers in the live channel of Robinson Creek and to avoid disturbance to riparian habitat.
- While removing the existing bridge, a tarp will be in place below the bridge to prevent debris from entering Robinson Creek.
- Construction will take place during the summer months, which will reduce erosion problems that are prevalent during the winter months.

The project will require a California Department of Fish and Game 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement.

At this time the Regional Water Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification Permit. In addition, the Regional Water Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Mona Dougherty by phone at (707) 570-3761 or email at [dougmrbl.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:dougmrbl.swrcb.ca.gov), or send comments to Regional Water Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.